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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Newbury Market Place, First World War or earlier

Image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hello

It's our first newsletter since the publication of the June edition of The Historian which we hope has reached you by now

As is traditional at the start of each quarter, we have a look at other Societies' journals as well as a look back to the articles published in the June 2021 Historian.

As it's June, then for those of you who joined before June 2020, renewal season has started. As in previous years, we will send you email reminders and these are phased to smooth the flow through our system. There's a short guide below.

This week's big news though is a joint venture we're undertaking with the Berkshire Local History Association to bring you an online Berkshire Heritage Day featuring dozens of virtual stands for local history groups from Berkshire and the adjacent counties.



This online heritage fair is organised jointly between Berkshire History Society and Berkshire Local History Association. It takes place over two sessions: 10am - 12 noon and 2-4pm. You may book places on either or both sessions.

The event aims to give attendees the opportunity to connect with participating organisations from across the historic county of Berkshire. Additionally, family history societies from the contiguous counties will also be present. A full list of participating organisations will be published on this website.

This is the first time this type of event has been held in Berkshire. So it offers a unique opportunity to connect to local experts who can help you to deepen your understanding. Of the places your family lived, the organisations they were connected to and the businesses for whom they worked.

It is free to attend and open to members and non-members alike.

Each participating organisation will have their own breakout room. Attendees will be able to move from room to room to pose questions, ask advice and share information with the experts present. These are private conversations and can

only be heard by those present in the “room”.

Experts from Berkshire Family History Society will also be available. They will be able to answer your questions on topics such as Berkshire’s parish registers, wills and probate, maps, getting started in family history and breaking down brick walls.

(If you wish to attend both sessions - please book each one separately)

Book morning session

Book afternoon session

Participating organisations



For those who joined prior to 2020, renewal season has kicked off. To smooth the flow of renewals we phased the process by randomly assigning existing members a renewal date between 2nd and 31st July. Your first reminder should arrive one month before that.

But there's no need to wait for the renewal notice. If you want to get ahead of the game please log in to the website and then go to **Membership > Renewal**. Renew now and your membership will be extended for a year from your individual renewal date.

Membership fees have been held at the same level for yet another year so membership is incredibly good value, from 36.5p a week!

Some common issues:

I can't remember my username

No problem, you can log in using your email address instead

I can't remember my password

Go to the login screen and at the bottom of the pop-up box you'll see a "Lost Password?" link. Click there to get a password reset email

I can't remember my membership number

You don't need it to renew online but if you log into the site and click 'Profile' in the main menu, your member number is shown at the top of the page

I got my details wrong and I've been locked out of the site

This is a security measure but the lockouts are temporary. Leave it 20 minutes and try again please.

If you joined after June 2020, you can ignore this message because your renewal date is one year from the date you joined.



See the Historian in full colour

There's nothing to compare with handling a printed magazine and we'd love to bring it to you in full colour but that's just not an economic proposition. However, if you head over to the website, you can read a colour version there.

The member articles often contain some beautiful colour illustrations and you also get to appreciate the sepia tints of vintage photos.

You'll find June's edition already there, and a complete archive of back issues.

Log in at <https://berksfhs.org> then come back here and click

<https://berksfhs.org/historian>

New Exchange Journals

Of course, at the same time as our own journal is published, other societies are publishing theirs. We're constantly adding new editions to the archive. In the last week we've added Richmond-Tweed FHS (NSW. Australia) and the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society

Log in at <https://berksfhs.org> then come back here and click

<https://berksfhs.org/member-protected-content/journal-exchange/>



Look back at June 2021 Historian articles

In another tradition that accompanies the publishing of the latest edition of The Historian, we also publish online the member articles from the previous year's edition. Read them here:

Log in at <https://berksfhs.org> then come back here and click

[A Remarkable Lady](#)

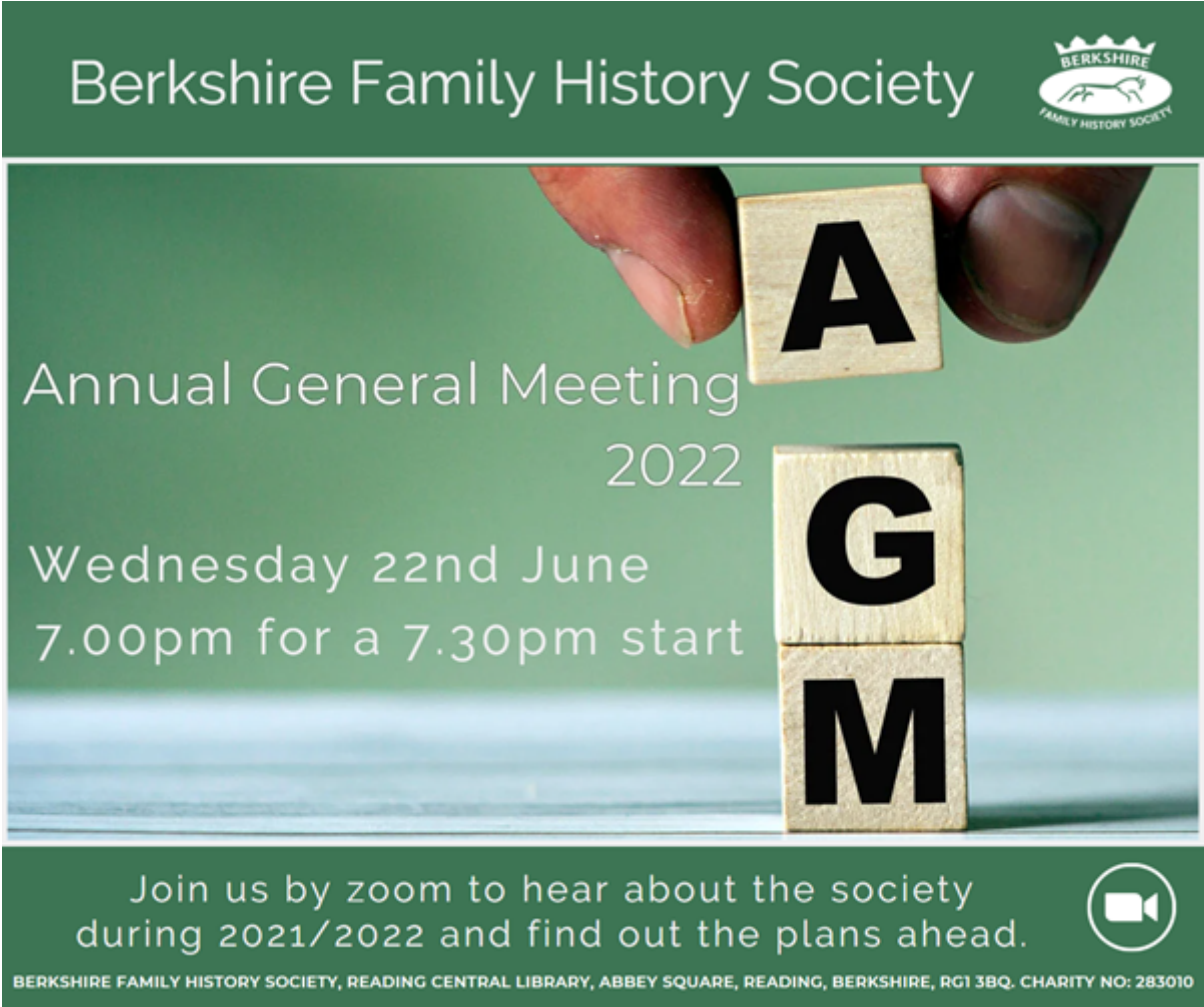
Jackie Blow sheds a light on a little known pioneer

[Binfield Parish Council – The Early Days](#)

John Harman takes a look at the early days of local government

[Polish Ancestral Tourism – Wolf Hunting in Womja \(Lomza\) part 2](#)

Leigh Dworkin continues with his trip in search of his ancestors

A promotional poster for the Berkshire Family History Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022. The poster features a green header with the society's name and logo. The main image shows a hand holding wooden blocks that spell out 'AGM'. The text on the poster provides the date, time, and location of the meeting, as well as information about joining via Zoom and the society's contact details.

Berkshire Family History Society

Annual General Meeting
2022

Wednesday 22nd June
7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Join us by zoom to hear about the society
during 2021/2022 and find out the plans ahead.

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, READING CENTRAL LIBRARY, ABBEY SQUARE, READING, BERKSHIRE, RG1 3BQ. CHARITY NO: 283010

Berkshire Family History Society's AGM

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 22nd June at 7.30pm, via Zoom.

Please come and support what is an important part of the governance of your society.

This is a great opportunity to meet other members of the society, hear about the society during 2021/2022 and find out the plans ahead. Questions and debate are encouraged. We welcome all members, wherever you may live.

Book your place here:

<https://berksfhs.org/events/annual-general-meeting/>



Trade and occupation sources

Learn about methods to research trades.

Speaker: David Cufley

David uses examples for occupations as varied as brickmakers, ratcatchers and calico printers to show how to find the records, and what you can get from them

Log in at <https://berksfhs.org> then come back here and click:

<https://berksfhs.org/member-protected-content/member-video/>



Events

Our events programme is a mixture of online and face-to-face (F2F)

Join us - wherever you are



Where are they buried?

**Woodley Branch Meeting with talk
by Chad Hanna**

15 June 19:15 for 19:30

Venue: Online

Death indexes and certificates help you to locate where someone died, but not where they were buried. How do you go about finding where your ancestor was buried or otherwise commemorated?

Gravestones and other memorials cost money and the family often considers the wording carefully and the information may be more reliable than what appears on a death certificate. Nearby memorials may provide context.

How should you clean and record gravestones? Helpful tips for photographing gravestones. How can burial grounds be mapped and recorded? How helpful are the DeceasedOnline, BillionGraves and FindAGrave websites.

Free to members (£3 non-members)

Pre-booking required

Book now

1-1 Beginners' Family History Advice – June

16 June 11:00 to 15:00

Venue: The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading



Are you just getting going with your family history, or just picked it up again after a break? Not sure how to get going, where to focus, and how to organise your records?

The third Thursday of each month is a great day to come into The Centre for Heritage and Family History. Between 11am and 3pm you can gain guidance and help from two very experienced family historians – Hilary Waller (a member of AGRA) and Vanessa Chappell. You will be able to use the Centre's computers to access Ancestry Worldwide, Findmypast Worldwide, The Genealogist and The British Newspaper Archive. Plus of course, a host of other free websites. You can access the vast selection of books in the society's reference library. And also, in the adjoining Local Studies Library.

It doesn't matter where your ancestors came from – we will attempt to help you.

No booking required, just turn up.

Free to members and non-members, but donations always gratefully appreciated.

[Book now](#)



The New Poor Law 1834-1929 Workshop

Tutor: Joan Dils

18 June 10:45 for 11:00

Venue: Online

Many family historians have ancestors whose lives were touched by poverty. Population growth and the emergence of an industrial society made the old poor law increasingly expensive and unworkable. A revised system, the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, determined that poor relief should still be administered and paid for locally. However, this would be a more uniform and

centrally supervised system. Groups of parishes formed poor law unions, centred on a town. Each union was administered by an elected Board of Guardians who employed paid officials. Poor relief was given only in a union workhouse, where conditions would be less favourable than those of the poorest labourer outside.

A number of documents were created by these boards and their officials. There are also many government reports. They provide information both on the individuals who enforced the laws, and those whom they supported or failed. This workshop will look at the New Poor Law between 1834 and 1929 and examine the records which may survive and their usefulness to family historians.

Tickets cost £10 (members £9)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



1-1 Family History Advice Session – June

**The Centre - Berkshire FHS
20 June 14:00 to 16:00**

Venue: Online

Are you just getting started in family history and wanting guidance as to how to proceed? Or are you stuck at a particular “brick wall” and need some help?

These popular family history advice sessions are online, using Zoom technology – so you can book a session, wherever you live in the world. Sessions are 1-1, free of cost and are available to members and non-members alike.

Book a 25 minute slot with our advisers and you’ll receive help from our experienced research assistants. We will provide whatever help and suggestions that we can within the time frame and will book a follow-on session with you if needed. Four 1-1 slots are available in this session:

Slot 1: 14.00 – 14.25 (fully booked)

Slot 2: 14.30 – 14.55 (fully booked)

Slot 3: 15.05 – 15.30

Slot 4: 15.35 – 16.00

Free for members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Open Evening

**Abingdon Branch Meeting
20 June 19:30 - 21:30**

**Venue: Long Furlong Community
Centre, Abingdon**

Are you thinking of researching your Family History? Do you need some help trying to break through a brick wall? Have you had a eureka moment and would like to share it?

If so, why not come along to our Open Evening.

We will be offering one-to-one advice (but this must be booked in advance, by sending an email to Abingdon@berksfhs.org.uk) or you can join in our friendly informal discussion.

[Book now](#)

Annual General Meeting

22 June 19:00 for 19:30



Venue: Online

Berkshire Family History Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd June at 7.30pm, via Zoom. There will be no speaker booked for the event, as we will only be conducting

society business.

Places must be booked in advance. If there are two members within your household, please book two places. Booking will close 2 days before the AGM.

This is a great opportunity for those of you who haven't previously been able to attend an AGM, to join this important part of the governance of the society. Meet other members of the society, hear about the society during 2021/2022 and find out the plans ahead. Questions and debate is encouraged. We welcome all members, wherever you may live.

Please Note: This meeting will be recorded for the benefit of members who are unable to attend the live session.

Members: Free

Pre-booking required

[**Book now**](#)



The Simonds Family & Simonds Brewery

23 Jun 14:00 - 15:15
with speaker Raymond Simonds

Venue Online

The Simonds brewery was founded in Broad Street, Reading, by William Blackall Simonds in 1785. After a move to Bridge Street, it remained there until 1978 and

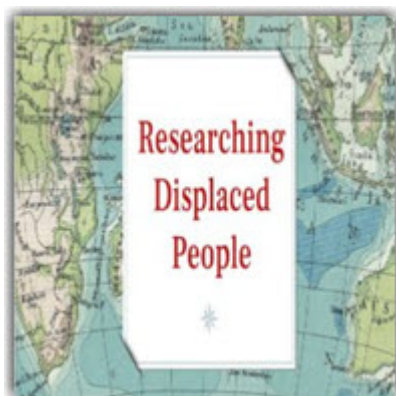
is one of the reasons Reading was known for the 3 Bs – biscuits, beer and bulbs.

Raymond Simonds, son of the last Simonds family managing director of the brewery, will begin by telling us about his Reading roots. These can be traced back to the 13th century and its wider origins in Europe and the USA. He will talk about the origins of the family brewery, its extent and eventual demise.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Researching Displaced People

**Windsor Branch Meeting with
speaker: Julie Goucher
28 Jun 19:15 for 19:30**

Venue: Online

A broad overview, beginning with the definition of displacement and other similar terminology. We then look at some key examples, using four case studies which provide examples of the breadth and depth of the topic and cover the 19th Century and right up to the modern age. The session is accompanied by a handout which provides some guidance on how to research further.

Free to members (£3 non-members)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

That was just a selection from our extensive

events programme ...

[... click here for the full programme](#)

Events routinely sell out so book early to secure
your place



Berkshire Family History Society
for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond

The Centre for Heritage and Family History
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